

### VITACURA AND GARCHING – GREAT SCIENTIFIC SURROUNDINGS

Both Vitacura and Garching offer exciting scientific environments to students. Vitacura hosts about 10 students, 15 postdocs and 35 faculty members; Garching hosts about 15 students, 15 postdocs, 45 faculty members. Both sites have state-of-the-art computer and networks facilities to which students have full access. Further, the Santiago office has tight connections to the astronomy departments for the Universidad de Chile and the Pontificia Universidad Católica (including regular joint activities and colloquia) and an analogous programme in Chile to the IMPRS is being discussed between the Office of Science in Vitacura and the Universities of Chile. ESO Garching is within a short walking distance of the Max-Planck Institutes for Astrophysics and Extraterrestrial Physics with which colloquia and conferences are shared on a regular basis.

Both sites host several workshops and conferences per year to which the students have free access. Garching also offers, through the IMPRS, a three-week block of lectures (in English) at graduate level each semester.

In summary, the alternatives to conduct research as a student ESO are manifold and the scientific environment very rich. The ESO studentship represents unique opportunities to immerse in an international observatory environment during one's PhD studies.

The only complaint lately received from students was about the weather, and this only in Garching. But surely the many other advantages more than make up for it.



Current ESO students in Chile: in the back from the left – Nicole Nesvacil, Pascale Hibon, Sylvain Baumont, Christophe Couronne, Hannes Horst; in the front row: Pasquier Notredame, Alessandro Ederoclite, Alberto Scatarzi (missing on the picture: Carla Gil, Celine Delle Luche, Frank Coppolani).



Current students in Garching – in the back from the left: Michaela Döllinger, Marta Mottini, Alessandro Rettura, Karina Kjær, Andres Carmora Gonzalez, Stephane Blondin, Andreas Seifahrt; in the front from the left: Veronica Strazzullo, Bettina Gerken, Kim Nilsson, Isabelle Gavignaud, Nate Bastian, Yuri Bialecki, Stefan Uttenthaler, Jarek Rzepecki, Marcelo Mora, Morag Hastie (missing: Aglae Kellerer, Jörg-Uwe Pott, Silvia Vicente).

## ‘TOWARDS A EUROPE OF KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION’ – EIROFORUM PRESENTS A MAJOR SCIENCE POLICY PAPER

CLAUS MADSEN, ESO

**T**HE EUROPEAN SOCIETIES ARE undergoing fast changes these years. The need to manage the European integration process as well as to develop adequate solutions in the face of globalization and the pressure on the ‘European way of life’ led the Heads of states and governments of the EU to set for themselves the goal of developing the most dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world within a 10-year period. Both the goals and the policies to reach them are known as the *Lisbon Agenda* and the *Lisbon Process*, respectively, reminding us that it was in the city of Lisbon – in the year 2000 – that this development was started. Now, at half-time, the process has been reviewed and

the governments have acknowledged the need to focus on the most essential policy areas that must be developed to achieve success. Central to the revised Lisbon agenda is the notion of ‘knowledge’ – ‘creation’ of knowledge through science, its dissemination through education and its exploitation by society through technological development.

As part of its contribution to the ongoing debate about *Lisbon*, the seven EIROforum partner organizations have presented a joint science policy paper laying out their ideas and proposals in order to further the Lisbon Process. With the title ‘Towards a Europe of Knowledge and Innovation’, the paper analyses the challenges to science raised by the Lisbon Agenda and the contribution that

science can make in this context. It suggests directions that political actions should take to strengthen science and thus enable it to support the attainment of the goals set at the Lisbon Summit. These suggestions include proposals for concrete actions involving the EIROforum organizations, both in terms of activities that reach out to society at large (e.g. in education, public awareness of science, etc.) and actions that aim to improve the conditions for researchers and thus to achieve EIROforum’s overall vision of ‘creating a climate in Europe in which relevant, competitive scientific research (basic and applied) can be undertaken in an efficient, cost effective and successful way’. The document discusses the need for fundamental research



Presenting the EIROforum Science Policy Paper: (left-to-right) Colin Carlile (DG, ILL), Bill Stirling (ESRF), Robert Aymar (CERN), François Biltgen (EU Competitiveness Council), David Southwood (ESA), Janez Potocnik (EU Commissioner), Catherine Cesarsky (ESO), Ian Mattaj (EMBL), Jérôme Paméla (EFDA Associate Leader), and Katya Adler, moderator and BBC correspondent.

(‘science-driven frontier research’), the central role of research infrastructures, both as a means to carry out competitive research and as catalysts for structuring the scientific communities and developing new research projects. In this context the paper also provides a brief overview of the current trends within the scientific disciplines covered by the EIROforum organizations and presents some of the future large research facilities that European scientists will need to remain competitive. Last but not least, the document addresses the difficult issues of how to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA), seen as an essential part of the Lisbon Process, and the role that the EIROforum organizations can – and should – play within the ERA.

The paper was formally presented to the public on April 20 in Brussels at an event at the Berlaymont Building, the seat of the European Commission. In the presence of Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Research and François Biltgen, who as Luxembourg Minister for Culture, Higher Education, Employment and Research represented the EU Competitiveness Council, the seven Directors General presented their ideas to an invited audience of Commission officials, representatives from the European Council and the member states as well as the press.

Said Commissioner Potocnik: “I welcome the EIROforum Science Policy Paper and I support the development of further partnerships between the European Commission and EIROforum towards our common objectives of consolidating the European Research Area and progressing in the Lisbon agenda. [...] Your organizations, CERN, EFDA, EMBL,

ESA, ESO, ESRF, ILL play an essential role in the European Research Area. They contribute to structuring the ERA by gathering around them strong scientific communities in their respective scientific fields. They enable European scientists to engage in cutting-edge research by providing them with top-class facilities and services. They improve the visibility and the attractiveness of European science all over the world. In addition, your *Forum* provides now a platform for coordination and collaboration, which pools together the expertise of these organizations in their respective fields. It also facilitates high-level interactions with external European institutions.”

Speaking on behalf of the EU Presidency, Mr Biltgen added: “The European Research Area will only become a reality if it can rely on joint and well-coordinated efforts, at both

European and national level, in combination with activities of the relevant intergovernmental organizations. Europe and its political leaders have fully understood the importance of ‘the knowledge triangle’ which underpins all components of the Lisbon strategy. Today’s economy and the well-being of citizens rely more than ever on the progress of knowledge and its transformation in new products, processes and services [...] Joint efforts of all stakeholders at Union and at national level should contribute to create that positive climate your vision paper is referring to, a climate in which relevant, competitive scientific research can be undertaken in an efficient, cost-effective and successful way, and let me add, ensure in the long term the competitiveness of our economy as well as deliver wealth and prosperity for the European citizen.”



ESO Director General Catherine Cesarsky and Janez Potocnik, EU Commissioner for research.